

Key references

A collection of completed Health Care Needs Assessment reviews is available in HILS as:

Stevens, A. et al. (2004) *Health care needs assessment: the epidemiologically based needs assessment reviews. First series, 2nd ed., vol.1, p.-16.* Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing. See online: <http://hcna.radcliffe-oxford.com/>

For instructions on how to do HNA see:

Bradshaw, J. (1994) *The conceptualisation and measurement of need: a social policy perspective.* In: Popey, J and Edwards, G. (1994) *Researching the People's Health.* London: Routledge

Hooper, J. and Longworth, P. (2002) *'Health Needs Assessment Workbook' Health Development Agency.* <http://www.hda-online.org.uk/documents/hna.pdf>

Stevens, A., Raftery, J. and Mant, J. (2004) *An introduction to HCNA: the epidemiological approach to health care needs assessment.* In: Stevens, A. et al. (2004) *Health care needs assessment: the epidemiologically based needs assessment reviews. First series, 2nd ed., vol.1, p.-16.* Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing : <http://hcna.radcliffe-oxford.com/>

Health Needs Assessment: Central Resource and Summary on NeLH website: <http://rms.nelh.nhs.uk/healthmanagement/> Click on Health Needs Assessment under Management Briefings

Key contacts and resources

NELH: www.nelh.nhs.uk

The National Electronic Library for Health - developed by the NHS Information Authority - is a fantastic resource. It links with all the best health information libraries and databases to provide the best available Gateway to text based health information. If it's not in NELH then it probably doesn't exist. Sue Austin in HILS can help you make the best use of this site and provide you with a password.

The Health Development Agency: www.hda-online.org.uk

The HDA is the national authority on what works to improve people's health and to reduce health inequalities. Its role is to support health improvement by:

- * Gathering evidence of what works
- * Advising on good practice
- * Supporting all those working to improve the public's health.

The North East Public Health Observatory PHO: www.nepho.org.uk/

There are 9 Public Health Observatories, each aligned to Government Office Boundaries. Their remit is to

- * Monitor disease patterns and trends at local level drawing together information from different sources and organisations to facilitate local priority-setting and planning
- * Analyse data to give early warning of emerging health problems and changes in health trends ensuring that policy is kept locally relevant and up to date.
- * Evaluate the impact of local actions and assess the effectiveness of local agencies in improving health and tackling health inequalities.

The Department of Health: www.dh.gov.uk

Almost all current and many old DH publications, including statistical reports, surveys, press releases, circulars and legislation, are available in electronic form on this site.

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics
www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/PublishedSurvey/fs/en

Gateshead Compendium of Health Related Statistics

A comprehensive range of statistics is available on a CD produced by Gateshead PCT Information department. The CD covers:

- Demography
- Deprivation
- Fertility
- Mortality
- Communicable diseases
- Infant & child health
- Circulatory diseases
- Cancer
- Mental health
- Accidents
- Health & lifestyle
- Drug abuse
- Health inequalities

Contact: Caroline Thurlbeck or Guy Blackburn

CEHI



Gateshead Centre
for Enabling Health
Improvement

Fact sheet 1:
Health Information

A factsheet to support, develop and share health improvement practice in Gateshead

October 2004

Health Needs Assessment

Finding information

This fact sheet aims to help you find the information you might need to undertake a piece of health needs assessment (HNA) work.

HNA is a systematic method of identifying the health and healthcare needs of a population and making recommendations for changes to meet these needs. The key types of information which might be included in HNA are summarised in the box below and the fact sheet highlights the main sources of health information along with contact details.

Specialist area

Health Information is a specialist area. Make the most of local expertise to ensure that your search for information yields the most useful results easily and quickly.

Expert help in the PCT

IM&T: The Information Management & Technology Department serves Gateshead PCT. It provides a wide variety of Primary & Secondary Care statistics, and help and advice on data collection and analysis projects such as databases & questionnaires. Staff can also undertake ad-hoc data analyses. The team also produces a Compendium of Population and Health related statistics and a leaflet detailing standard information which can be produced as well as useful online datasources.

Contact:
Caroline Thurlbeck, Information & Technology Manager,
Gateshead PCT headquarters.
Tel: 0191 497 1534
www.gatesheadpct.nhs.uk

HILS: The Health Information & Library Service is available to all staff in Gateshead & S Tyneside PCTs. It holds a core collection of journals, reports, documents and books and items not held in stock can usually be obtained via inter-library loan. HILS can also provide access to electronic resources, email alerts, literature searchers and training in information retrieval.

Contact:
Sue Austin, Information Manager, Gateshead PCT headquarters.
Tel: 0191 497 1460
www.gatesheadpct.nhs.uk

Types of information collected in HNA

- General description of the health issue being assessed
- Description of the population(s) being assessed
- Description of the relevant health status of the population(s) being assessed including trends
- Description of the population care / services currently provided:
- Policies & regulations affecting future service provision
- Best practice guidance - services/treatments
- Service/treatment effectiveness
- Local priorities affecting future service provision
- Comparisons with service provision elsewhere
- Stakeholder views

Feedback, information, suggestions?

Please contact:
Pat Elms, CEHI Manager,
Gateshead PCT,
Team View,
5th Avenue Business Park,
Team Valley Trading Estate,
Gateshead

Tel: 0191 497 1475
Email: cehi@ghpct.nhs.uk

Information relating to population health care

Health information is a developing field and many of the statistics we would like to use just do not exist on a routine basis either in Gateshead or in other areas. Check out the Compendium and the lists below to see if the data you would like actually exists. If not, try using published data to extrapolate estimates about Gateshead. Contact HILS to find such studies.

Scope of currently available care

Hospital services: Examine the relevant contracts, service level agreements and service specifications to explore the scope and quantity of services currently available, the populations served and the costs.

Community services: Service Level Agreements (SLAs) are being developed in selected areas eg learning disabilities and substance misuse. For information about service developments & current issues see the PCT Performance Management Business Plan.

General Practices: Consult IM&T, or the PCT Practitioner Liaison Managers and checkout the PCT Practice Profiles which summarise relevant data about access, prescribing, risk management and admission rates. Or try the Tyne & Wear Contractor Services Agency (CSA) www.twcsa.nhs.uk

Use of services

Hospital inpatients, day cases, operations & procedures, and outpatients- Anonymised Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) about every patient are routinely available providing demographic & clinical data information. NB there are complicated definitions so ask for help. **Contact:** IM&T, PHO
Also see: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/HospitalEpisodeStatistics/fs/en

Primary care: Limited routine data is available from IM&T eg contraceptive advice, waiting times, immunisations, anticoagulations

Prescribing data

The prescribing team can provide data on the volume and cost of medicines prescribed in Gateshead either across the whole PCT or by individual practice. This data can be used to analyse trends in prescribing for individual medicines or groups of medicines and for comparison with national and regional averages. The data is not linked to demographic information or indications which may limit its usefulness in certain circumstances. **Contact:** Janette Stephenson Pharmaceutical Team Lead ext. 497 1528.

Quality of care

Hospitals: Generally, quality information, other than waiting times, is not routinely collected. Consider asking providers for audit reports, results of patient satisfaction surveys. Contact PALS for patients' views.
GPs & community services: Complaints are collated by Brenda Carrahar at the PCT & fed back to Heads of Service. Monthly reports re GP quality targets are submitted to the PEC: Contact Business planning & performance Management
Also, for GP services, there is a developing Quality and Outcome

Framework Management and Analysis System (QMAS) - contact IM&T & for details of practice inspections contact PCT Practice liaison officers

For more information about any services contact the PCT lead commissioner and consult the relevant voluntary or patient groups for their views.

Also see: www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/content/QualityOutcomes

CEMACH The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (previously CESDI - the Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths & Infant Deaths)

<http://www.cemach.org.uk/>
www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/06/68/27/04066827.pdf

www.rcgp.org.uk/faculties/scotcoun/qpa.asp

www.doh.gov.uk/performance ratings/2002

Health outcomes

This is a developing area with only very little routinely available information .
See: The National Centre for Health Outcomes Indicators: <http://nchod.uhce.ox.ac.uk/>
Or published health outcome indicator (HOI) reports on specific conditions (including Diabetes mellitus, Stroke, Asthma, MI) : www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/nchod/

Or the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base: <http://nwww.nchod.nhs.uk/>

Policies and regulations

Consider the relevant guidance from the NHS, Professions, unions, and other Government departments including the EU. Contact HILS and see: www.dh.gov.uk

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Legislation/fs/en>

Best practice guidance (clinical)

Professional & regulatory bodies issue a variety of "best practice" guidance, usually available on

request, on the web or published in the grey or white literature. **Contact:** HILS and see: www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Effectiveness information

There is a burgeoning amount of information about whether treatments are effective or not - the evidence based medicine EBM movement. However, there are still many gaps. Contact HILS for advice & see NELH for effectiveness reviews, consensus statements etc. www.nelh.nhs.uk

Stakeholder views

The Patient Public Consultation forum can field requests for information & the notes of these

meetings are available if you know that a topic has already been discussed. **Contact:** Chris Piercy.

You can also approach the relevant Health Improvement Group (HIG) or Local Implementation Team (LIT). Contact relevant heads of service for details. Also the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)- can provide information drawn from patient enquiries. A quarterly report is produced which should be available on the PCT website by October 2004. **Contact:** Clare Nesbit

Information relating to population health status

General descriptions of health issues

Contact HILS for clear descriptions in textbooks, research papers and national policy and strategy documents.

Sociodemographics

Age, gender, social class etc ARE routinely collected as vital statistics based on national census data (every 10 years). **Contact:** IM&T, PHO & Gateshead Council; Also see: www.statistics.gov.uk www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Well being and lifestyle

This information is NOT routinely collected although local data are available in the Gateshead health & lifestyle survey 2004, an adhoc survey commissioned by Gateshead PCT. **Contact:** IM&T

National data are available in the Health Survey for England (HSE) - a series of annual surveys designed to provide regular information on various aspects of the nation's health & other national datasets See: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/PublishedSurvey/HealthSurveyForEngland/fs/en> www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Disease and disability

This information is NOT routinely collected in any comprehensive system.

CHD: Gateshead has developed a primary care dataset based around the NSF. **Contact:** IM&T

Infections: information is routinely collected about specific notifiable infectious diseases. Contact: IM&T or Health Protection Agency

Cancer: New cancers are registered in detail. **Contact:** Northern & Yorkshire Cancer Registry (NYCRIS); www.nycris.org.uk

Diabetes: IM&T are developing a Gateshead dataset based around the NSF. **Contact:** IM&T

Disease registers: Some GPs and specialist units have these- it is worth asking **Contact:** IM&T, PHO, HILS for help

Deaths

Mortality data ARE routinely collected, based on information recorded on death certificates - age, occupation, cause of death, gender. **Contact:** IM&T